

MEMOS. FOR TO-DAY.

Shipping.
4 p.m.—Frigo leaves for Yokohama, &c.
Meeting.
9 p.m.—Convocation of Cathay Chapter.
Miscellaneous.
Local Banks close.
Insurance Office close.
Goods per Polyphemus undelivered after this date subject to rent.

MEMOS. FOR TO-MORROW.

Shipping.
Daylight.—Haiten leaves for Coast Ports.
Daylight.—Zuiguan leaves for Yokohama, &c.
Noon.—Chelytra leaves for Straits and Calcutta.
3 p.m.—Changsha leaves for Port Darwin, &c.
Kueiyang leaves for Tientsin.
Stungking leaves for Manila.
Miscellaneous.
Goods per Gie-a undelivered after this date subject to rent.

A. S. WATSON & Co., LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

Wines and Spirits.

All these are SELECTED by our London House, bottled direct at first hand, imported in wood and bottled by ourselves, thus saving all intermediate profits and enabling us to supply the BEST GROWINGS at MODERATE PRICES.

PRICE LISTS, with full details, to be had on application.

PORT.—After removal should be a month before use. When required for drinking at once it should be ordered to be decanted at the Dispensary before being sent out.

CLARET.—Our Claret, including the lowest priced, are guaranteed to be the genuine product of the juice of the grape and are not artificially made from raisins and currants, as is generally the case with Cheap Wines.

BRANDY.—All our Brandy is guaranteed to be pure Cognac, the difference in price being merely a question of age and vintage.

WHISKY.—All our Whisky is of excellent quality and of greater age than most brands in the market. The Scotch Whisky marked 'E' is universally popular and is pronounced by the best local connoisseurs to be superior to any other brand in the Hongkong Market.

We only guarantee our Wines and Spirits to be genuine when bought direct from us in the Colony or from our authorized Agents at the Coast Ports.

A. S. WATSON & Co., LIMITED,
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
Hongkong, January 7, 1895.

The publication of this issue commences at 1.35 p.m.

The China Mail.

HONGKONG, MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1895.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

[Supplied to the 'CHINA MAIL'.]
London, 15th April, 1895.
THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.
It is reported that China and Japan have arrived at an understanding, and that there are prospects of an early peace.

THE SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

Wholesale population in connection with the building of the Siberian railway has been discovered, and large parties of Don Cossacks have sailed for Vladivostok to settle in that district and to assist in the protection of the line.

BURSTING OF A GUN AT WU-SUNG.
A forty-ton Armstrong gun, bursting at Wu-sung, fired a powder-magazine, killing fifty Chinese.

LOSS OF THE S.S. 'NORA'.

News was received by wire on Saturday that the Norwegian steamer Nora had been lost; and that the Captain and crew had reached Shanghai (presumably) in safety. Messrs. Wier & Co., the Agents, received the telegram, which was to the following effect:—'Nora is lost; Captain and crew safe.' The agents state that the vessel must have been on a voyage between Nagasaki and Shanghai, and that she must have been lost somewhere near that destination. No further particulars are yet to hand.

28 Second-Mary Place wanted for Export, W. Robinson and Company.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

PASSED SUEZ CANAL.

OUTWARD BOUND.—*Esoudale*, *Daphne*, March 1; *Birball*, 5; *Wieland*, 12; *St. Giles*, 19; *Laurel Branch*, 20; *Clayville*, 21; *Straits of Sundra*, 25; *Benlondra*, 25; *Ulysses*, 26; *Atoll*, 29.

HOMEWARD BOUND.—*Tedamon*, *Jawa*, March 12; *Masotto*, 15; *Sutlej*, *Ceylon*, *Mura*, *Brato*, 19; *Orestes*, *M. Kaleria*, *Cassopolis*, 25; *Breconshire*, 26; *Glenshield*, *Kruce Simon*, *Tower*, 29.

The N. P. s. s. *Victoria* left Yokohama for this, via ports, on April 11.

The M. M. Co.'s steamship *Natal*, with the *Essex* Mail, left Saigon on Sunday, April 14, at 4 a.m.

The P. & O. Co.'s s. s. *Kaiser-i-Hind*, with the *Essex* Mail, left Saigon on Sunday, April 14, at 4 a.m.

The P. & O. Co.'s s. s. *Chitra* left San Francisco for this port, via Honolulu, Yokohama and Nagasaki, on March 26.

The O. & O. s. s. *Relic* left San Francisco for this port, via Yokohama and Nagasaki, on April 4.

The s. s. *Tacoma* left Tacoma for this port on April 5, via Japan ports.

The s. s. *Ketsing*, from Calcutta & Straits, left Singapore for this port on April 9, and may be expected here on or about April 15.

The Austrian Lloyd's steamer *Melpomene* left Singapore for this port on April 10, and may be expected here on or about April 16.

The s. s. *Essex* left Singapore on April 11, and may be expected here on or about April 14.

The P. & O. s. s. *Canton* left Singapore for this port on April 13, and may be expected here on or about April 19.

The N. G. L. s. s. *Bornida* left Bombay for this port on April 7, and may be expected here on or about April 20.

The P. & O. s. s. *Shanghai* left London on March 21 for this port.

The P. & O. s. s. *Fornosa* left London for this port on April 4.

The French Mail steamer *Natal* left Saigon yesterday, at 4 a.m.

W. ROBINSON and Company for the highest class Piano Tuning and Repairing.

The N. P. Company's s. s. *Sith*, which left Yokohama on the 31st March, arrived at Tacoma on the 13th instant.

The departure of the P. M. s. s. *City of Peking* is postponed till daylight on the 18th inst.

The *Essex* exequatur has been issued empowering Mr F. J. Haver Droege to act as Consul-General for the Netherlands at Hongkong.

The Opium Farm has been let by private contract for the term of three years, from 1st March, 1895, to 1st March 1898, and Ho Tat Sang, trading under the style of firm of Man Pook Company.

VESSELS IN THE DOCK.—At Kowloon: *Quirco*, *Irono*, Spanish cruiser Reina Cristina, H.G.M.S. Wolf, Manila, Reval. *Cosmopolit*, *Polyphemus*. *Aberdeen*—Ethiopia, H.M.S. Severn.

H.M.S. *Archer* sailed to-day for Amoy and Shanghai and the *Peacock* for Nagasaki. The Russian gunboat *Odin*, and two torpedo boats arrived yesterday from the south.

A Tokio telegram has been received at Shanghai denying that the Japanese soldiers in the neighbourhood of Nanchang had killed all the wounded Chinese. The allegations were contained in letters to our Shanghai contemporaries from Nanchang correspondents.

FRANCE receives six times more than she sells to Japan, whilst Britain gives seven times more than she receives. Hongkong alone disposes of three times the quantity of goods sold by France to Japan. A French writer is of opinion that Japan will have to adopt a foreign language and that language will be English.

The *Park Pioneer* hears that Capt. H. L. Talbot has received a gratuity of £400 sterling from the Government for the wound he received during the attack on Jeram Ampai, occupied by the Pahang rebels, on 30th June last. Commenting on this *L'Asie du Tonkin* says—We do not require to ask our officers what they think of this manner of recognising *le prix du sang*. It is true the English are essentially a mercantile people!

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Her Majesty has not been advised to exercise her power of disallowance with respect to Ordinance No. 14 of 1891 entitled an Ordinance to secure in certain cases the rights of property in telegraphic messages and to prevent the forgery and improper disclosure of telegrams. It may be remembered that a suspensory clause was added to this measure to allow a communication to be addressed to the Secretary of State.

L'Asie du Tonkin, like the majority of the Far Eastern French newspapers, lament over the removal of the contract for eighteen years between the French Government and the Messageries Maritimes, which, although obliged to place faster steamers on the Australian run, continues to send out to the Far East steamers capable of accomplishing the trip in the maximum time allowed by the mail contract. 'The force is over,' says our contemporary, 'Indo-China, as usual, has been sacrificed for other interests.'

The P. & O. s. s. *Kaiser-i-Hind* left Singapore for this port at 3 p.m. yesterday, with the next outward English Mails, and may be expected to arrive here on Friday, the 19th inst.

The O. & O. s. s. *Coptic*, with mails, etc., which left hence March 20th for San Francisco via Nagasaki, Kobe, Island Sea and Yokohama, arrived at her destination on the 12th instant.

Mr A. M. Thomson, Acting Colonial Treasurer, has, we understand, been entrusted with the additional post of Superintendent of Victoria Gaul, Mr H. B. Lethbridge having gone home on leave.

The gold medal, offered by Mr David Gillies, President of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong, for competition amongst the members of the Institution, has been awarded by the Committee of Adjudication to Mr W. G. Winterburn for his paper on 'Screw Propellers.' There were five competitors.

The *Mercury* is outside the bar, and is expected to remain for a few days, during which time her officers will visit Bangkok. The Commander and his wife came up to Bangkok this morning, says the *Siam Free Press* of the 30th ult. It is considered in some quarters that the arrival of the *Mercury* has some political significance. This, however, seems to be entirely a matter of opinion.

We notice amongst recent arrivals from the north the names of Messrs Tyler, Walpole, Thomas and Clarkson, who participated in the gallant defence of Weihaiwei, and of Mr L. Bisse, who, though not present on account of injuries at the actual defence, did much to place the defence of the northern stronghold in a sound condition. Presumably these heroes will now resume their old posts in the Chinese Imperial Customs Service, under their old chief Sir Robert Hart.

In a recent article on the Pescadores, *L'Independence* Tonkinoise urges the French Republic not to allow its attention to be diverted entirely by the war with the Hovas from affairs transpiring in the Far East. Our contemporary believes the French Government will not allow the Japanese to take absolute possession of Formosa and the Pescadores, on which France, at the price of the blood of her soldiers, had purchased or acquired the first right to plant her flag on these islands. Britain, which has every interest in supporting China's retention of Formosa, would not miss the opportunity of opposing the pretensions of Japan; but it was the duty of France not to allow her premier rights to be overlooked. Her honour was at stake, and she had acquired the right to speak out. If the law of first occupation were to be invoked, France had difficulty the law on her side.

The industrial and commercial development of Indo-China and other French possessions in the East was closely connected with this Formosa question, and the intention of Japan in Formosa would not therefore receive the sanction of France, unless, however, Japan, in the treaty of peace with China, introduced a clause that in compensation for Formosa France was to receive the island of Hainan? As *L'Independence* Tonkinoise, and as *Gran Britain* cannot presume to get the whole earth France may share in the spoils after the war. But the suggestion that Japan is to appropriate the various segments of the dismembered and disintegrated China is altogether too funny, even from a French point of view.

The capture of the *Pescadores* is now ancient history, even in a war which is marked by one startling event every month. But the accounts that come to hand do not show the Chinese soldiers in a favourable light. At making a number of women and children were killed as the soldiers mowed to the boats, the unfortunate creatures being knocked down and literally trampled to death.

The Fisher Island Fort was deserted before they were attacked. The Japanese captured much very valuable war material, including the splendid new guns mounted since the French effort, and which, together with the forts, have cost the country, &c. the people, so much money. It is also reported (writes a correspondent to the N.-O. *Daily News*) that the Japanese got for \$100,000, that \$200,000 in specie cash but as to this there is no certainty. The French evidently knew what was coming for some time before, as they have had ships-of-war in the *Pescadores* for at least a fortnight before the first Japanese vessels put in an appearance, and according to Chinese sources, freely informed, of the people there of what was going to occur.

On Monday, the 25th March, one of the French war-ships went to Amoy to wire events to their Admiral, but refused absolutely to say a word as to what had taken place on the previous day, to anyone ashore or aboard! It was not until the news had been wired from Tientsin, therefore, that anything definite was known on the mainland. What reason the French had for this unusual and severely friendly taciturnity is not at present known.

H.M.'s *Leider* was seen on the scene, however, having come past Tientsin from Tientsin on hearing the first news of the attack. It is not known what the Japs intend doing, i.e. whether they purpose continuing their operations to the island and if so where. It is hoped that although a delicate exception of Formosa has been made from the relation they will in reality hold their hands off.

It is seen what is to come of the Peace Negotiations now going on in Japan.

THE PLAGUE IN HAINAN.

The French Consul at Pakhoi has informed his government that the plague has broken out at Hoikow. Up to the 9th inst. the disease had appeared in its mildest form, and the mortality had not exceeded 10 per cent of the cases. Nevertheless, Messrs Schomburg and Co., who had made arrangements to send Chinese immigrants to Singapore, have decided that it would be better to countermand their steamers. The Governor-General of Tonkin has notified the medical department to take sanitary measures at once to prevent the introduction of the disease into the French Colony by vessels from Hoikow. Before entering Haiphong all vessels will be inspected by the sanitary authority, and the measures adopted will be the same as during the prevalence of the plague last year. Before departure and during the voyage, all captains are recommended to exercise a close surveillance upon Asiatic passengers and to notify at once every suspicious case.

From other sources we learn that the number of cases of what is now termed as 'benign' plague (as contrasted with malignant cases) occurring in Hoikow is much smaller than it was a few weeks ago. The action of the French authorities, unless tempered by discretion, is therefore ill-timed.

THE CHINA-JAPAN WAR.

PROBABLE FAILURE OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

(Special to the 'CHINESE MAIL'.)

Shanghai, April 13, 7.30 p.m.
It is believed that the Peace Negotiations will prove fruitless. The Chinese Government considers Japanese demands excessive.

Private telegrams do not confirm the fears suggested above, and we still adhere to the belief that Peace will be declared at an early date.

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

Shanghai, April 9.

Advice from Bakon, under date of the 4th instant, state that the peace negotiations were progressing favourably. The Japanese terms were delivered to Li Hung-chang on the 1st instant, and were then under consideration, which was probably a formality pending their acceptance by China. The Japanese are extremely jealous to guard against the publicity of the terms until the protocol is signed. A daily journal was promptly suppressed for premature disclosure respecting the armistice.

Increased precautions are being taken to protect the Chinese Mission from violence. Every person entering or leaving the town of Bakon has to carry a permit and submit to a minute personal search. The place is crowded with soldiers and police.

The members of the Chinese Mission, including Mr Foster and staff, are confined to a narrow area in the centre of the town. The Viceroy's wound is healing fast, his condition is good, and he is working hard.—*Daily News*.

THE LABOUR CRISIS IN HONGKONG.

FRANCIS' FACTS, FIGS, AND FANCIES.

Le Courier d'Haiphong gives us the opportunity of testing ourselves with French spectacles in an article entitled 'La Grève,' of which we give the following free translation.

There is nothing more irritating than the eternal cry: 'Look at the British Colonies! Ah, well, let us look for a moment at what is transpiring in Hongkong. Truly there is nothing there to prove that the English ought to be imitated always and everywhere. There, the Government of Her British Majesty appears to be strongly embarrassed and does not know how to extricate itself from its embarrassment. The Government wishes to prevent a probable return of the bubonic plague, to compel the Chinese-lodging-house keepers to abstain from over-crowding in their vile and badly-ventilated houses. (Then the article explains how the lodging-house keepers, seeing a likelihood of their receipts being diminished, have turned up their treacherous noses to strike.)

What will be the outcome of the embargo? We cannot say yet. Repetently, when new taxes or new police regulations have been announced, the coolies have folded their arms and refused to work. Indirectly, the commercial community have protested on account of the inconvenience to trade and the British Administration (that model administration!) the only good one, the only perfect one!—has had to lower his flag and give in. It is so dreadfully right or wrong? We know nothing about that, but it seems to us, that what it ought to have done, having adopted a measure which was likely to provoke strikes and kill, in effect, all commercial activity, was to consider what would be the result of the new regulation and to take steps to ensure that European commerce would not suffer from the attitude taken up by the Chinese.

A few Chinese coolies continued to work on board the ships in harbour, but the others, their competitors, do not stop at half measures; seven assassinations, of which the perpetrators are still undiscovered, have occurred, besides several abductions of women and children. To-day the strike is general; 7000 coolies have left Hongkong and gone over to the Chinese Government, the soldiers and the police, and wire-mending letters. For the moment they are the stronger of the two forces (We do not know where our contemporary gets the above 'facts,' but as one of them will occur to our readers as news indeed.—Ed. C.M.)

The future of the Colony depends more or less upon the energy of the British administration. The Chinese are the more encouraged to hold firm because two European coolies have been recently killed in Singapore. The Government has been obliged to give way before a general strike. 'The Chinese are not! We have proved ourselves the stronger on these occasions; we will do so again.' This, remember, is the logic of the Chinese. The Government is encouraged to hold firm because two European coolies have been recently killed in Singapore. The Government has been obliged to give way before a general strike. 'The Chinese are not! We have proved ourselves the stronger on these occasions; we will do so again.' This, remember, is the logic of the Chinese. The Government is encouraged to hold firm because two European coolies have been recently killed in Singapore. The Government has been obliged to give way before a general strike. 'The Chinese are not! We have proved ourselves the stronger on these occasions; we will do so again.' This, remember, is the logic of the Chinese.

The dead heat between G.L. Lysley, of the *Bulla Brigade*, and F. B. Kow for the first place and prize in the 220-yard race—the distance run was really 185 yards—will not be run off. Lysley, who has a bad foot, relinquishes the first prize.

Under the Router has not sent out the result of the University boat race this year. Too busy probably deciphering war telegrams from the Far East. According to the latest accounts the Oxford crew were favourites, but as this University has won for five years in succession a vicar Cambridge would not be out of the way. It would at least lend variety to the dull monotony of the rowing.

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SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

Down in Australia the philatelic fanatic is put completely in the shade by the cricketeer who always wants to collar the ball at the close of an important match. At the conclusion of the final test match, McKibbin secured the ball, and it was only after a great deal of palaver and a promise to get a photo in exchange that he handed it over to Stoddart, who intends to place it amongst his most treasured possessions when he returns to the old country.

I was rather amused to see in an Australian newspaper the easy familiarity with which one of the 'anonymous scribblers'—I thank thee, Douglas Jones, for that notorious phrase—referred to 'Jack Brown.' The anonymous scribbler's address evidently follows the principle of the boatman in *The Sons of Neptune* who 'allus called him Jack becos his name was Bill.' As a matter of fact J. T. Brown's first name, baptistically is 'James,' but colloquially 'Jim.' As one who came into the closest contact with him for a couple of cricketing seasons, who was indeed one of a County Committee which selected him for his first engagement as a professional, I may be presumed to know something of him, and since he has taken a prominent position in English cricket and does so exceedingly well in Australia, though Stoddart's last choice, a word about him may not be out of place in this column. Like the versatile but inconstant Harrison, Brown was a prototype of Lord Hawke, and was spotted five years ago or more by Louis Hall as one of Yorkshire's coming men. He was a mere lad—about 18—when he was recommended to the County which had been served faithfully and well by Louis Hall himself before he found a place in the Yorkshire Eleven. It was as a bowler that Brown was recommended. At first, he was medium place without the slightest suggestion of break, and got his wickets chiefly by varying his pace and pitch. Then he cultivated a leg break, and from the moment he did so his reputation as a bowler rapidly waxed. He was always a reliable bat, not graceful by any means, but he never lost sight of the ball and played for runs more than for the gallery. His favourite strokes—and I see he still sticks to them—were a sweet late cut just out of the reach of third man and an outrageous pull when the field was bunched on the off-side waiting for catches from off-their-mischiefs. In one of his early speeches in Australia, Stoddart said he had got together a team of 'trotters,' and the word fitted no 'one better than Brown. Above all things he is a 'trier,' plays the game keenly from the first to the last ball. His father is a publican in Driffield, but Jim—as he was familiarly called by us, not Jack—has always been an abstainer; and when an Eleven was on tour Brown, notwithstanding his taste for a little game of billiards, was always the man with the steadiest nerve in the morning. He is a thick-set young fellow of middle stature and possessed of imperturbable good humour, modest, and, unless he has considerably changed of late, rather retiring.

In the stereotyped reports of the Athens Sports at the Racetrack on Saturday, I do not think any reference was made to the excellence of the arrangements. The Committee of the Victoria Recreation Club must have been early at work, aided and abetted, I have no doubt, by their faithful henchman the Club Steward. Though the arrangements were excellent and everything passed off smoothly and up to time, it was a pity the fields were so small and the competition so poor. The programme contained the names of a lot of entrants, whose presence would have added interest to the various events. Why were they absent? Had influenza anything to do with it? The garrison and the navy were represented by one man each, and a universally small proportion. Now that the V.R.C. has taken the sports in hand there ought to be an improvement.

Speaking of the Sports, I see the *Confidential* has given an explanation of the phenomenal 'times' with which the mediocre competitors were credited. The measurement of the circular track was not correctly taken, and the result was that the full distance was not run in races over 120 yards. The records at the Hongkong Sports have always struck me as remarkable.

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LATE TELEGRAMS.

(From the 'Siam Observer'.)

London, April 14.—Sir Charles Mills, K.C.M.G., C.B., Agent-General in London for Cape Colony, is dead.

General Sir George T. Chesney, K.C.B., who represented Oxford in Parliament (Conservative), is dead.

THE WELSH DISSENTMENT BILL.
London, April 20.—In the House of Commons last night the Bill for Dissentment and Disfranchising the Welsh Dioceses of the Church of England passed the second reading by a majority of 44.

THE PANAMA.
In the House of Commons last night Sir Edward Grey, Parliamentary Secretary for the Foreign Office, in reply to a question by the Hon. G. C. Curzon, stated that an agreement as to the Panama Canal had been concluded between England and Russia, and that a copy of it would be laid on the table of the House.

THE UPPER NILE.
Sir Edward Grey, replying last night to a question by Mr Labouchere, said that the question of the British sphere of influence on the Upper Nile was discussed with France last year, but the discussions had not yet concluded. The negotiations had not yet been broken off. The British Government would not, whatever agreement might finally be made, ignore the rights of Turkey and Egypt to the Upper Nile districts.

